

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.8 Percent

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in January to 3.8 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 2,446, a result of 1,758 more employed and an additional 688 unemployed Arkansans. At 3.8 percent, the United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point between January and February.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The number of employed in Arkansas rose 1,758 in February, adding slightly to the civilian labor force. There are currently 6,592 more employed Arkansans than in February 2018."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Change From January 2019	Change From February 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,357,845	1,355,399	1,351,078	2,446	6,767
Employment	1,306,637	1,304,879	1,300,045	1,758	6,592
Unemployment	51,208	50,520	51,033	688	175
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.7	3.8	0.1	0.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.0	4.1	-0.2	-0.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online April 3, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 9,500 in February to total 1,264,700. Employment gains were posted in seven major industry sectors, while four sectors declined slightly. **Government** added 3,100 jobs, as public school employees returned from the winter holiday break. Jobs in **professional and business** services increased 2,300. Most of the additions were in administrative and support services (+2,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Leisure and hospitality** rose 2,200. A majority of the hiring occurred in food services (+1,600), as food contractors returned to schools and universities. **Manufacturing** added 1,800 jobs, split between durable goods (+900) and nondurable goods (+900) manufacturing.

Compared to February 2018, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas is up 11,600. Seven major industry sectors added jobs, as four sectors declined. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 4,700. Most of the growth was in durable goods (+4,200), with reported expansions in the manufacturing of items such as machinery, transportation equipment, and fabricated metal products. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 3,000. Hiring was reported in all three subsectors. **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,300 jobs, all in food services (+2,700). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,800. All gains were posted in health care and social assistance. **Government** employment expanded 1,400, mostly in local government (+1,200). **Professional and business services** posted the greatest decline (-2,100). Most of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-2,500), which includes activities such as call centers, travel agencies, and janitorial services.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Change From January 2019	Change From February 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1264.7	1255.2	1253.1	9.5	11.6
Goods Producing	219.2	217.9	214.9	1.3	4.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.7	55.2	55.1	-0.5	-0.4
Mining & Logging	5.7	5.8	5.9	-0.1	-0.2
Construction	49.0	49.4	49.2	-0.4	-0.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.8	31.2	30.8	-0.4	0.0
Manufacturing	164.5	162.7	159.8	1.8	4.7
Durable Goods	80.0	79.1	75.8	0.9	4.2
Nondurable Goods	84.5	83.6	84.0	0.9	0.5
Service Providing	1045.5	1037.3	1038.2	8.2	7.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	251.4	251.2	248.4	0.2	3.0
Wholesale Trade	48.5	48.4	47.0	0.1	1.5
Retail Trade	137.8	137.2	137.6	0.6	0.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.1	65.6	63.8	-0.5	1.3
Information	11.0	11.1	11.3	-0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	60.4	60.9	59.8	-0.5	0.6
Finance & Insurance	47.1	47.5	46.4	-0.4	0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.3	13.4	13.4	-0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	144.4	142.1	146.5	2.3	-2.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.2	44.5	44.2	0.7	1.0
Management of Companies	34.6	35.0	35.2	-0.4	-0.6
Administrative & Support Services	64.6	62.6	67.1	2.0	-2.5
Educational & Health Services	192.4	191.6	190.6	0.8	1.8
Educational Services	15.9	15.3	15.9	0.6	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	176.5	176.3	174.7	0.2	1.8
Ambulatory Health Care	58.5	58.7	57.5	-0.2	1.0
Social Assistance	40.3	40.2	39.9	0.1	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	116.7	114.5	114.4	2.2	2.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.0	9.6	10.3	0.4	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	106.7	104.9	104.1	1.8	2.6
Accommodation Services	10.6	10.4	10.7	0.2	-0.1
Food Services	96.1	94.5	93.4	1.6	2.7
Other Services	53.4	53.2	52.8	0.2	0.6
Government	215.8	212.7	214.4	3.1	1.4
Federal Government	20.1	19.8	19.9	0.3	0.2
State Government	79.5	77.2	79.5	2.3	0.0
Local Government	116.2	115.7	115.0	0.5	1.2

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2018 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

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